

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mining Plan duly approved, is mandatory for obtaining a mining lease. The Mining Plan provides for undertaking safe, systematic and scientific mining operation. As per Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 all mining operations have to be carried out in accordance with mining plan. In case of any failure in this regard, the Rules provide that an authorized officer may order suspension of all or any of the mining operations and permit only such operations as may be necessary to restore the conditions in the mines and as envisaged under the said Mining Plan.

(c) In view of reply at (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Handing over of mines to foreign companies

466. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering any proposal for handing over some mines to foreign companies; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions laid down by the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir. Under Section 5(a) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company registered in India under Section 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted a mining lease.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Attracting FDI in mining

467. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's new mining policy aims to attract as much as Rs. 300 billion *i.e.* 6.5 billion of foreign direct investment in metals and minerals sector after overhauling a 49 year old mining law;

(b) if so, by what time it is likely to be announced; and

(c) whether delays in securing mining licenses and land have undermined India's efforts to win more investment leaving the South Asian Nation short of the raw materials needed for an economy forecast that India could easily provide?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) A High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Central Government which is under consideration. Investment Commission in its report has projected an investment of US \$ 10-15 billion in mining and quarrying sector.

(c) This Ministry has not received any information about effect of the procedural delay in grant of mineral concessions on the economic growth of the country due to short fall in supply of any major minerals.

Grant of mining lease

468. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the recommendations of the Hoda Committee on the National Mineral Policy to curb the powers of States on grant of mining lease rights by transferring such rights to the Centre in case of delays in the process by the State;

(b) whether such a move will deprive the jurisdiction of the constituent States of the right to their mining resources solely on the grounds of delay in disposal of the applications; and

(c) whether many States including Karnataka have sought for a change in the present system of fixed royalty rates on an *ad-valorem* duty to boost the State revenues and if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The High Level Committee has given a recommendation that the Mines and Minerals